

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04

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TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /086 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4076

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, OAS, IA-ECOSOC

SUBJECT: U.S. TRADE ACT

REF: STATE 035339

1. ECONOMIC COUNSELOR DISCUSSED SUBJECT ON FEBRUARY 25 WITH DR. ROBERTO KEIL, DIRECTOR SUPERIOR (VICE MINISTER) OF MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE. COUNSELOR DID NOT GO INTO SUBSTANCE OF TRADE ACT, SINCE KEIL WAS PRESSED FOR TIME AND SINCE EMBOFFS HAVE PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED ACT WITH HIM IN DETAIL (ALTHOUGH WITH LITTLE VISIBLE IMPACT). COUNSELOR EMPHASIZED THAT USG CONSIDERS MEETING IMPORTANT AND THAT HIS CALL SHOULD BE REGARDED AS OFFICIAL USG REPRESENTATION TO GOP THAT MEETING BE DEVOTED TO SERIOUS, TECHNICAL EXAMINATION OF TRADE ACT WHICH USG BELIEVES TO BE OF GREAT POTENTIAL BENEFIT. PARTICULARLY TO COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA, AND THAT USG HOPES THAT GOP WILL SHARE VIEW THAT POLEMICS BE AVOIDED.

2. KEIL'S RESPONSE WAS NONCOMMITTAL, ALTHOUGH HE AGREED THAT OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW ACT IN DETAIL WOULD

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BE USEFUL. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, HE SAID HE DID

NOT YET KNOW COMPOSITION OF GOP DELEGATION AND IS UNCERTAIN WHETHER FINANCE MINISTER WILL ATTEND. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE ASKED WHETHER TREASURY SECRETARY SIMON PLANS TO ATTEND. HE SAID THAT IN HIS VIEW IT IS "ESSENTIAL" THAT SOMEONE OF SIMON'S RANK WHO IS ABLE TO SPEAK AUTHORITATIVELY FOR USG BE PRESENT; OTHERWISE MEETING WOULD NOT HAVE AS GREAT SIGNIFICANCE FOR LATINS AND DELEGATIONS WOULD NOT HAVE AS HIGH LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION AS THEY OTHERWISE MIGHT. SIMILARLY, IN HIS VIEW HIGH LEVEL U.S. REPRESENTATION WOULD CONSTITUTE POSITIVE AND TIMELY EVIDENCE OF U.S. INTEREST IN CONTINUING "DIALOGUE."

3. COMMENT: WE DO NOT KNOW TO WHAT EXTENT KEIL'S VIEWS ARE ALSO HELD BY OTHER LATIN GOVERNMENTS, BUT HE IS A COMPETENT, RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL WHO IS NOT GIVEN TO RASH STATEMENTS. HE PROBABLY ACCURATELY REFLECTS VIEWS OF GOP ON THIS SUBJECT. HIS POINT THAT USG CAN BEST ASSURE HIGH LEVEL, SUBSTANTIVE, AND NONPOLEMICAL DISCUSSION OF TRADE ACT IN MARCH BY DESIGNATION OF SENIOR OFFICIALS TO HEAD ITS OWN DELEGATION IS THEREFORE WORTH TAKING SERIOUSLY.
DEAN

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